

WASHINGTON POST
3 February 1986

JACK ANDERSON and DALE VAN ATTA

North Korea Aids Iran's War of Terror

In an ominous echo of an almost-forgotten conflict, North Korea is fighting an undeclared war against the United States—and possibly, as in 1950, with the cooperation of China.

The communist regime in Pyongyang is supplying Iran with military hardware and instructors who are directly linked to Ayatollah Khomeini's underground war of terror against America.

In fact, the latest report is that at midnight on Jan. 14 a group of trained terrorists—29 men and 11 women—left Tehran aboard a military aircraft for parts unknown. Sources inside Iran say the 40 terrorists had been trained in Iranian camps by North Korean military advisers. Our intelligence sources fear that the group will be involved in terrorist activity outside Iran very soon—and Americans are still the No. 1 target of Iranian-backed Shiite terrorists.

The North Korean military influence in Iran is pervasive, according to other intelligence reports. At least 300 North Korean military advisers are working with the Iranian armed forces at the highest levels.

One recent report focuses on North Korean supervision of Iran's surface-to-air missile production. These weapons are not only useful for the stalemated war against Iraq, but could be used by terrorists to shoot down commercial airliners.

At Sadhzi, near Isfahan, an Iranian colonel, Muhammed Tolouie, is the titular head of a large missile factory. But the real boss is Col. Chang Hooit, a North Korean known to the Iranians as "Mr. Who." His technical staff includes 48 North

Koreans, 18 East Germans, two Yugoslavs and a Pakistani.

In the last several years, according to CIA reports, North Korea has sold Iran more than \$1 billion worth of weapons, mostly for the Iraqi war. Several of the reports indicate the CIA's belief that the North Koreans often act as surrogates for Peking, which supports Iran secretly. If so, the North Koreans evidently aren't always reliable surrogates. One report, classified above top secret, said China was trying to work out a deal to ship its weapons to Iran through Greece.

So far, the North Koreans have supplied more than 100 tanks and an unknown number of Chinese-made J6 fighters to Iran. North Korean instructors train Iranians on the J6 at a base north of Pyongyang and train Iranian kamikaze pilots on Swiss crop-dusters at another field at Won San. Several trainees were killed in the Swiss planes, which are modified to carry explosives for direct suicide attacks on warships or land facilities.

North Korea also has sold thousands of small arms, mortars and antiaircraft guns to Iran. Most of the material is shipped by sea, though Iranian 747s have been used to transport urgently needed spare parts and supplies from Pyongyang.

North Korea's exports of arms and expertise are not confined to Iran. North Korean pilots have been flying MiG jets in Libya for years because Libyan pilots still haven't mastered the aircraft. North Korean advisers trained the notorious Fifth Brigade that raided southern Zimbabwe, and some North Korean troops have fought against Western-backed rebels in neighboring Angola.